

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Users and programmers can load semi-structured hierarchical data, such as XML data, of arbitrary size and structure into relational database tables using an

5 schema such as an SQL-annotated XML schema. The schema describes how XML data maps into base tables and fields, including complex one-to-many and many-to-many relationships. The hierarchical data is streamed into the relational database tables in a single operation.